IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (original) A service offering system comprising:

recording means for recording a unique identifier to each of a plurality of storage media issued;

a database for storing and managing the identifiers;

reading means for reading the recorded identifier from any of said storage media;

checking means for checking the identifier read by said reading means against said identifiers managed in said database; and

service offering means for offering a service to the storage medium identified by the checked identifier depending on a result of the check by said checking means.

2. (original) A service offering system according to claim 1, wherein said database stores, in correspondence with said identifiers, right information which denotes services available to said storage media identified by said identifiers.

3. (original) A service offering system according to claim 1, wherein said recording means records to said storage media right information which denotes services available to said storage media identified by said identifiers together with said identifiers.

4. (currently amended) A service offering system according to claim 1, wherein said service offering means offers the service to the storage medium in question in accordance with the right information which denotes services available to said storage media identified by said identifiers.

5. (currently amended) A service offering system according to claim 1, further comprising content data storing means for storing a plurality of content data items;

      wherein said service offering means allows relevant content data to be downloaded from said content data storing means to the storage medium in question.

6. (currently amended) A service offering system according to claim 1, wherein said service offering means allows relevant content data to be uploaded from the storage medium in question.

7. (original) A service offering system comprising:

      storage medium issuing means including recording means for recording a unique identifier to each of a plurality of storage media issued;

      a management server including a database for storing and managing the identifiers recorded to said storage media issued by said storage medium issuing means;

      a terminal device including reading means for reading the recorded identifier from any of said storage media;

      checking means for checking the identifier read by said terminal device against said identifiers managed in said database; and

a service provider including service offering means for offering a service to said terminal device depending on a result of the check by said checking means.

8. (original) A service offering system comprising:

storage medium issuing means including recording means for recording a unique identifier to each of a plurality of storage media issued;

a management server including a database which stores the identifiers and retains, in correspondence with said identifiers, right information which denotes services available to said storage media identified by said identifiers;

a terminal device including reading means for reading the recorded identifier from any of said storage media; and

a service provider including service offering means for offering a service to said terminal device depending on a result of checking the identifier in question against said identifiers managed in said database and according to the right information stored in said database in correspondence with the checked identifier.

9. (currently amended) A service offering system according to claim 8, wherein said service provider includes content data storing means for storing a plurality of content data items;

wherein said service offering means includes judging means for judging whether or not the corresponding right information indicates permission to download, said service offering means further reading relevant content data from said content data storing means and transferring the content data to said terminal device in accordance with the judgment made by said judging means; and

wherein said terminal device receives the transferred content data and records the received data to the storage medium ~~in question~~.

10. (currently amended) A management server comprising:

receiving means for receiving identifiers from a storage medium issuing party issuing a plurality of storage media identified by said identifiers which differ from one another; ~~and~~

storing means for storing said identifiers in a database; and

<u>checking means for checking the identifier transmitted from a terminal device by way of a service provider against said identifiers stored in said storing means.</u>

11. (canceled)

12. (original) A management server according to claim 10, wherein said storing means stores, in correspondence with said identifiers sent from said storage medium issuing party, right information which denotes services available to said storage media identified by said identifiers.

13. (original) A management server according to claim 10, further comprising update information creating means for creating update information for updating authentication information stored in said storing means along with said identifiers, as well as authentication information recorded on said storage media together with said identifiers.

14. (original) A management server according to claim 13, wherein said update information creating means creates update information for updating right information stored in said storing means in correspondence with said identifiers, as well as right information recorded on said storage media.

15-25 (canceled)

26. (original) A service offering method for offering a service to a storage medium, the method comprising the steps of:

  recording a unique identifier to each of a plurality of storage media issued;

  storing the identifiers into a database;

  reading the recorded identifier from any of said storage media;

  checking the identifier read from the storage medium against said identifiers stored in said database; and

  offering a service to the storage medium identified by the checked identifier.

27-31 (canceled)